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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 12-17 are newly added. No new matter has been added. The support for the amendment can be found on pages, 11, 13, 14, and 51. As for new claims 12-14, support can be found on pages 51 and 52. Other added claims find support at page 17 as well as figure 1.

Rejections:

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Katsukawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,117) (Katsukawa) in view of Handbook of Imaging Materials, Diamond, Arthur S & David Weiss (Handbook).

Claims 1, 5, and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morikawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0045116) in view of the Handbook.

Claims 2-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morikawa in view of the Handbook, further in view of Kojima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,529) (Kojima).

Claims 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morikawa in view of the Handbook, further in view of Tomizawa. (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,071) (Tomizawa).

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morikawa in view of the Handbook, further in view of Itami (U.S. Patent No. 6,203,962) (Itami).

Background:

The image forming process of the present invention requires at least three items, two-component developer, transferring toner image to an intermediate transfer member with pressure and specific creeping modulus. In claim 1, the term “development with pressure” is not used but “the photoreceptor is pressed to contact with the intermediate transferring member at image formation process” according to the wording in the specification.

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An image is formed on the photoreceptor by development using two-component developer containing toner particles and carrier particles. Sometimes carrier particles are adhered to the photoreceptor and are carried to the primary transfer area. The photoreceptor is pressed by transfer member in the transfer process. In Fig. 1, the photoreceptor (for example 1Y) is pressed by transfer member 70 with pressure roll (for example 5Y). The carried carrier particles may be buried into the photoreceptor. Therefore, the specific creeping characteristics are significant. No specific consideration to creeping characteristics is required in case of single-component developer, direct transfer process to the recording member (without intermediate transfer process), intermediate process without applying pressure.

The creeping characteristics are very important because of the two-component development employing carrier, the intermediate transfer process and applying pressure to the photoreceptor, as claimed.

Discussion of cited references:

Handbook is common to all grounds of rejection. The applicants understand that this reference teaches the intermediate transfer process, but that is all. There is no teaching or suggestion of developing process or transfer process.

Katsukawa does not suggest intermediate transfer process, two-component developing. A person having ordinary skill in the art does not presume a value of creeping modulus from recipe of Example 705. Further if it satisfies the condition as claimed in the present application, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the description of the Handbook. Still further, if the teaching of Kawakatsu and the Handbook is combined, the items mentioned above, two-component development, intermediate transfer process with pressure are not derived from these. There is no description that the technical subject matter of the present invention is suggested.

Morikawa does not teach or suggest the creeping modulus. Examiner is requested to compare Fig. 8 of the present application with Morikawa's Fig. 1. Morikawa applies pressure to the point B and it is released. In such experiment, creeping modulus cannot be obtained. In Fig. 8 of the present application, load is applied to point B and the load is

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maintained to the point C, and then it is released. Creeping modulus is calculated by $(h_2 - h_1)/h_1 \times 100(\%)$, as described at pages 31-2. Even though Morikawa suggests the creeping point, the reference does not suggest the value as claimed.

Further even though Morikawa suggest the creeping modulus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the description of the Handbook. Still further, if the teaching of Morikawa and the Handbook is combined, the items mentioned above, two-component development, intermediate transfer process with pressure, are not derived from these. There is no description that the technical subject matter of the present invention is suggested.

With respect to Kojima, this reference simply does not cure any of the described deficiencies of the primary references.

Tomizawa teaches roughness of the intermediate transfer belt as well as intermediate transfer process. However Tomizawa does not teach or suggest two-component development or intermediate transfer with pressure. Tomizawa teaches intermediate transfer member and transfer rollers, however it does not teach or suggest intermediate transferring with pressure, rather it teaches away the present invention since “the image on the image bearing member is electrostatically transfer onto the intermediate transfer member” (claim 1, col. 4, lines 52-57). Pressure is not necessary for “electostatically transfer”. Regardless, there is no teaching or suggestion of transfer to the intermediate transfer member in Tomizawa. Accordingly, the rejected claims simply cannot be deemed obvious over Morikawa in view of Handbook, and further Tomizawa.

Itami does not cure the deficiencies of the primary references.

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Conclusion

In sum, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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